

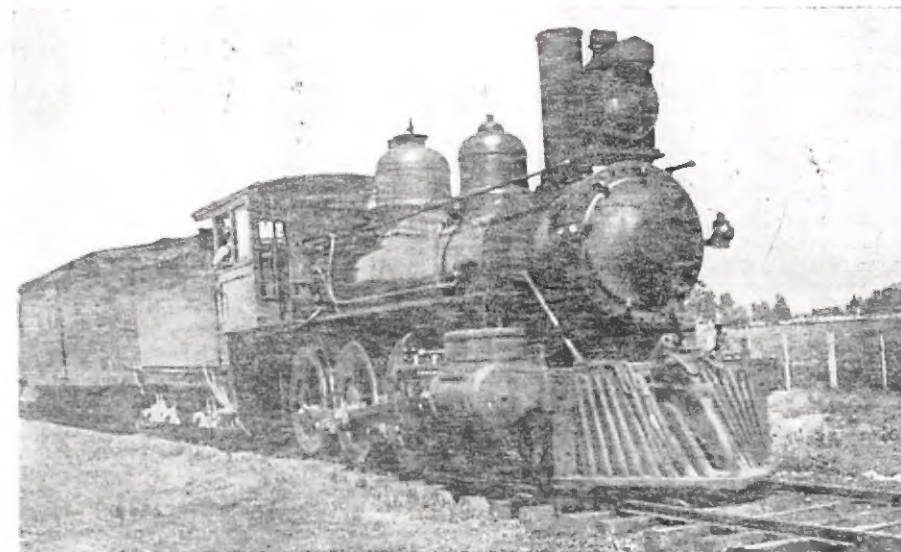
An early sheep camp on the range in the mountains near Charleston.

ton the Hereford headquarters of Utah. John M. Ritchie and the Allen brothers were also breeders of fine Percheron horses.

The railroad came to Charleston in 1899, and the first train arrived Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. The train carried six carloads of people from Provo who had been given free rides as the first passengers traveling



Haying time on the Wright farm in Charleston. Pictured here are William Stacy Wright, William T. Wright, Ethel, Elsie and Sarah Wright.



The first train to arrive in Charleston from Provo on September 6, 1899 at 2 p.m.

to Wasatch County. Nearly all the residents of Charleston were on hand at the depot to welcome the new iron horse. For many years afterward the people in Charleston enjoyed the convenience of two trains a day between Heber and Provo.

The advent of Deer Creek Reservoir and faster means of transportation began to spell the decline of Charleston in the late 1930's. Farm lands were covered with water and many residents moved away. Some who had to leave with their families and give up farms and homes in the wake of the new reservoir were John W. Allen, Thomas Allen, H. F. Watson, John L. Atwood, Heber J. Simmons, William Daybell, George B. Wright, William Boren, George Edward, Perry D. North, Roe Carlile and A. F. Latta.

With many of the residents moving away, the last remaining business in the town, the North Mercantile Co., was forced to close its doors. The Post Office was also discontinued, and patrons placed on rural route service from Heber. This necessitated the retirement of Postmaster Lorraine S. Wright, who had served for 28 years. About 1958 the Post Office building was purchased by the Sons of the Pioneers and was moved to Pioneer Village in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Those who have served as Postmasters in Charleston are: Nymphus C. Murdock, Sarah A. Wagstaff, Nellie North, Nellie Webster, Ruby Madsen and Lorraine S. Wright.

With all the changes that have occurred in Charleston, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continues as the mainstay in the lives of those who remain.

Joshua, Samuel, Permelia, Edward, Moses Worthen, Elizabeth, Ephraim, Caleb, Lewis. All these children were born in Canaan, Grafton County, New Hampshire.

LEWIS MECHAM AND WIVES. VASTIA EMILY JOHNSON AND ESTHER HERBERT



Lewis Mecham was born December 18, 1835, at Mercer, Pa., the son of Ephraim Mecham and Polly Derby. With his parents he lived through all the trials in Missouri and during the trek to Utah. He married Vastia Emily Johnson, daughter of Luke Johnson and Susan Pettitt, Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born September 4, 1842 at Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio. She died January 19, 1865, at Rush Valley, Tooele County, Utah. Lewis later married Esther Herbert. She was born February 12, 1851 at Mitchel-Troy, Monmouth, England, a daughter of Thomas Roland Herbert and Esther Lewis. Lewis Mecham died October 14, 1907, and Esther April 19, 1934, both at Wallsburg and they are both buried there.

Lewis and Vastia Mecham came West in 1862 by ox team and settled in Rush Valley with a Johnson family. Here their son Lewis Lafayette Mecham was born on September 30, 1862. Vastia died in 1865. In the spring, Lewis saddled up his horse and with his earthly belongings and his 2 and a half year old son, Lewis "Lafaye" behind him on the saddle, he rode into Provo to his parents' home. They all moved to Wallsburg shortly after.

Here Lewis met Esther Herbert, who was to become his second wife. She was 18½ years old when they were married. They settled on a little farm in Wallsburg. Pre-emption rights were given first, later homestead rights. They homesteaded a farm on Provo River also. This site is under the

Deer Creek Reservoir now. The place on the Provo River had a little lake on it called Lewis Lake, after Lewis Mecham. Esther took "Lafaye" and mothered him as her own. They had a large family and many trials and tribulations, but the Lord blessed them mightily.

When Esther Herbert arrived with her mother, Esther Lewis Herbert, in Wallsburg, they lived in a small fort at the head of spring, so they could use the beautiful clear water. This was for protection from Indians.

After her marriage to Lewis Mecham, their first home was made of cottonwood logs with a dirt floor. The only window was a log that was left out during the day to let the light in. It was put back in place at night to keep the cold out. The fireplace, used for cooking and heating, was made of rocks. Later Lewis Mecham built a large granary and they moved into this. When he threshed he had a bin for the grain in one end of the granary. They built their beds on top of the bin, using mattresses of straw. They also used pillows and feather beds filled with wild duck feathers. One time they had a "bad year," so had to take the straw out of the mattresses to feed the livestock.

Esther was terribly frightened of Indians. When they were living on the Provo River and Lewis had to be away from home, she would take the small children and go up in the foothills until Lewis came home. One day the Indians came into her home and caught her by surprise. The collar of her garments was sticking up above her dress. The Indians, seeing this, said, "Mormon, Mormon," and went away without harming her in any way.

Esther had a very patient disposition. After they were grown, all her children used to go home to visit "mother" on Sunday. While the older folks visited, the grandchildren built playhouses in the willows along the creek. None will ever forget Grandma Esther's good bread, butter and currant jelly sandwiches and her special "English tea biscuits."

During her last few years she lost her eyesight. She was always very patient about it while she had to sit in her big leather-covered rocking chair, until when 83 years old.

Lewis Mecham's Lake is now under Deer Creek

Lewis Mecham was second counselor to Bishop Frank Fraughton for 22 years. He had a room in his home that was set apart as a prayer circle room. Each Sunday the men of the priesthood would go up to grandfather's home to hold their prayer circle, his granddaughter, Norma Mecham Smith, recalls. This room was never used for anything else, and when she lived there later as a young girl she was just a little bit afraid of this room. "It always seemed so sacred to me."

Lewis Mecham was a veteran of the Blackhawk and Walker Indian wars.

One day, as Lewis and Esther were going to the home on the Provo River, the horses became frightened and started to run away. It took Lewis by surprise and he was thrown to the ground, striking his head on a rock. He lay unconscious for quite some time. He was "out of his head" about a week or 10 days and never was well after that accident. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage. He lived a life rich in service to the Lord and was always a fine example to his children and associates.

Their children: Luke Rollin, Orsen, Esther Polly, George Fayette, Emma Naoma, Ephraim L., Sarah E., Marquis Herbert, Mary Elvira, Gib Aml, Permelia Vilate, Bernet Runion and Alice Marinda.

HENRY FOWLES WATSON (called HARRY)



He was born in Heber City December 6, 1869. He was the first child of Thomas Squire Watson and Elizabeth Honeyman to be born in Utah as they left Scotland in April, 1869 and arrived in Heber in September of 1869. So he really crossed the ocean. He was the fifth son, and later more brothers and two sisters arrived making 12 children, only four grew to manhood. Thomas Squire and William Don were born in Scotland.

When he was six and his brother Bill ten, there was a dispute at the chopping block and Henry's toes were cut nearly off on one foot. They were fastened back on with molasses. At the age of 13 he helped his father Thomas freight butter, chicken, eggs, grain and passengers to Park City. They also carried the mail. On coming home one day from freighting they were told that his mother Elizabeth, who was 54, had been killed by a bull she had taken to water many times. Henry was then 19.

Later he worked for Kimball Coal yards at Park City and so there is where they made their first home after he married Ella Maria Murdock on Dec. 22, 1892. Lacy and Harry were born there. They later moved to Heber where he went in the cattle business with his father. Here Nymphas and Maud Ella were born in the old John Muir place.

Later they purchased a large farm from his father-in-law in Charleston, and here many things happened. Then Elvera was born, also Sina, Thaylia, Mazie, Esther, Thomas and Robert.

Lots of work and problems, big farm expense, sickness, schoolings, degrees, missions, and one son Harry served in World War I. But through it all, sorrows, or joys they were taught to love others and help,

and above all, to work. Father's home, like his heart, was always open to relatives or strangers. Like the sleigh loads that rode to church or to parties, there was always room for more. At Christmas time the sleigh was loaded with boxes of food and goodies for the widows and older people of Charleston.

He drove the children to school for six years in a covered sleigh and wagon and would bring some on to Heber to school.

He remembered when mules pulled street cars in Salt Lake and has seen so many changes take place.

He was deputy sheriff in 1921-22 for several months at Soldiers Summit. He was president of the Farm Bureau for eight years. The large reservoir now called Deer Creek took all the land, but a bit of hill ground, and his family all married, they purchased a home at Heber City. They did lots of temple work in the various temples.

On April 5, 1942 Aunt Ella passed away. Later Henry married Janet G. Duke, and in declining years they have had many joys along with problems and sorrows that come to large families. Many family parties have been held in his honor at age of 88½ years. He still drives his car, visits the sick, and his donations and help have been to many. He has one brother David C. Watson, 52 grandchildren, and 68 great-grandchildren, and many loved ones and friends.

ELLA MARIA MURDOCK WATSON



Ella Maria Murdock was born February 22, 1871, in Salt Lake City. She was the third daughter of Nymphas Cordion Murdock and Esther Maria Davies. Their home was a two-story adobe house, where the Newhouse Hotel now stands. In June 1875 they moved to Charleston where she

was baptized on May 10, 1879. As a small child she and her sister Malissa would go with their mother and others and take the town cattle up Deckers Canyon by the spring and make butter and cheese. When Primary was organized in Charleston by Eliza R. Snow, Ella was chosen secretary at the age of 12. They would often go to the fort at Heber for safety. She worked in the store at Charleston where her father was the owner. Some few years later she was president of the Young Ladies Mutual Assn. She was a member of the Wasatch Dramatic Company.

December 22, 1892, she married Henry Fowles Watson at Charleston, Judge Thomas S. Watson performed the ceremony. They made their first home in Park City. Here their first two children were born, Lacy Elizabeth and Harry M. At Park City she was the member of the Dramatic Company with Fred Rasband and Earl J. Glade as members. Ella received her patriarchal blessing from John Smith October 31, 1897. They moved to Heber where they had two more children, Nymphus C. and Maud Ella. Later they purchased a ranch formerly owned by Nymphas C. Murdock. Here seven children were born, loved and taught to live clean lives. They were Elvera, Thaylia, Sina, Mazie, Esther, Thomas and Robert. Esther died at the age of three. There was always room for more at their table and at their home friend or stranger was welcome. They always had plenty to eat. This is where work was invented, but lots of pleasure and joy.

She worked in Relief Society and Primary a number of years. On Oct. 29, 1919, she and her husband went to the temple and had their family sealed to them. The children were all married but one. She has always been a member of Daughters of Pioneers ever since its organization. She was president of the Timpanogas Camp at Charleston.

Before the Deer Creek dam project took the ranch, they bought a home in Heber. During the winter months they went south to Arizona and St. George to do temple work. In 1940 Thomas died. The winter of 1941 they spent in Arizona. Ella was not well. They came home. On April 9, 1942 she passed away with most of her loved ones around her. She was a wonderful mother, loved and honored by all who knew her.

FREDERICK LEWIS CLEGG



Frederick Lewis Clegg, born Aug. 6, 1881, in Springville, Utah, died May 11, 1929; son of Henry and Ann Clegg.

Married to Emma Caroline Luke, born Aug. 29, 1861, Heber, Utah; died Dec. 30, 1937; daughter of Henry and Harriet Luke. Had 17 children.

He moved to Heber City when he was 10. The father heard of beautiful Provo Valley through an Uncle, Jonathan Clegg, who had previously moved to Heber. He reported that it was a prosperous place, that land could be homesteaded, that mines were opening up, and it was a good place for cattle and sheep.

The spring of 1872, just thirteen years

after the settlement of Heber, Henry and Ann Clegg with their large family arrived in Heber and camped on the ground that is now the City Ball Park. Three weeks later, the family moved to a lot on Second North and Main Street, where they lived in a one-room log house, a tent, and a dug-out. They remained there about six months and then moved to the lot where the Seminary now stands, and built a one-room log house. Other additions were added to the house from time to time and remained the family home until after the mother's death.

The father homesteaded a section of land east of Heber and later divided the land among his sons.

Fred L. worked on the farm, at his father's shingle mill, and hauled freight to Fort Duchesne.

He and his wife had 17 children. He was eager for knowledge and attended school after he was married and had a small family. He played an alto horn in the Heber Band for 14 years, and also took parts in local dramas.

He took a prominent part in the public affairs throughout his 57 years of residence in Heber. He was justice of the peace for 14 years, president of the board of education for four years, a member of the City Council, and acted as probation officer.

He did mason work on the Stake Tabernacle for two years at \$2.50 per day. He hauled timber to the Anchor Mine at Park City for five years, supervised road construction in Deer Creek, and was a progressive farmer and stock raiser. He was secretary of the Lake Creek Irrigation Co., for 25 years, county chairman of the Republican Party, and took a prominent part in the growth and development of the community.

He suffered a stroke and after 16 months of illness, died.

EMMA CAROLINE LUKE CLEGG

She was the seventh child born in this valley. Her father was an Indian interpreter and many Indians came to their home to smoke the Peace Pipe. The Indians called him Chun-cun-a-bus, which meant cracked feet. He had to work barefooted in the fields and had chapped feet. His father was

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killed and scalped by the Indians when he was on his way to Salt Lake City with a load of wheat and to attend conference.

The family lived in a dirt-roofed log cabin and when it rained the roof leaked and pans were used to catch the rain as it dripped through the mud roof. The father died when Carlie was six years old. She helped her mother weave, pulled weeds, helped get wood from the canyon, picked potatoes on shares, gleaned wheat and pulled sage; all to help with the earning of a living.

She attended school at the old rock, one-room school in the southwest part of town. Some of her teachers were: Charles Nugent, Charles Carroll, Henry Chatwin, William Buys and Henry Clegg.

When she was 14, she went to Salt Lake and worked at the Lion House for Brigham Young and Brigham Young Jr. She washed dishes, scrubbed floors, and went to the market and gardens for the family food.

When she was 21, she married Frederick Lewis Clegg. They built a family home at Sixth South and Main Street, where their 17 children were born.

Carlie was very anxious for her children to have a good education and worked hard and sacrificed to make this possible. Of their nine children who lived to maturity, three are college graduates, two have their masters degrees; and one an L.L.B.

Two of their sons served on missions, and 23 of their posterity served in the armed forces. There are 105 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren from this union.